Performance of ONGC

298. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public relation exercises of ONGC during the last fixe years have actually hidden its non-performance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no oil well except Bombay High has actually been commercially viable; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate in making the Oil and Natural Gas Commission accountable in regard to its performance in view of the huge investments involved?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. The production of crude oil increased to 31.383 MT in 1989-90 against 27.514 MT in 1985-86. There has been more than two-fold increase in the production of LPG. The production of LPG during 1989-90 was 717620 tonnes against 320820 tonnes during 1985-86. The growth of gas supplies was two and a half times. reaching a level of 8621 86 Million Cubic Metres in 1989-90 against 33-4.23 million cubic metres in 1985-86.

(b) No, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Commission discovered commercially exploitable oil and gas at a number of places in Bombay Off-shore, Cambay. Assam. Nagaland, Tripura. Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery Basins.

(c) The activities of Oil and Natural Gas Commission are governed by ONGC Act. 1959, which, *inter-alia* prescribes auditing of its accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India every year and laying of the Audit Report before each House of Parliament In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding is signed with the Commission every year which specifies the targets to be achieved by ONGC for that year. The performance of the Commission is also monitored through periodical reports, returns and performance review meetings.

Waiting list for gas connections in Andhra Pradesh

299. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing waiting list for gas connections in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the number of gas connections expected to be allotted in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1990-91; and

(c) what measures have been taken to expedite the clearance of backlog?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): ((a) As on February 1, 1990 there were approximately 1.87 lakh persons on the waiting list for release of new LPG connections in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) New LPG connections are released all over the country, in a phased manner, under the annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to availability of LPG. The availability is augmented through increased proluction and imports.

बिहार के नवी नगर में ताप विद्युत केन्द्र की स्थापना

300. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के नवी नगर नामक स्थान में कोई ताप विद्युत केन्द्र का निर्माण किये जाने की कोई योजना है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ; और

(ग) यदि अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?